

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) A device for facilitating hearing, the device comprising:  
an earpiece configured to be captured at least partially within the conchae of an ear; and wherein the earpiece is configured for use in either ear without modification of the earpiece.
2. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece comprises detents configured to be captured by the conchae.
3. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is configured to be captured by protrusions of the conchae.
4. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is configured to be captured at least partially by the antihelix of the ear.
5. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is generally symmetric.
6. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is generally symmetric about a plane that bisects the earpiece.
7. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is generally symmetric about a plane that bisects the earpiece between the top and bottom thereof.
8. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is configured such that one size thereof fits a range of sizes of ears.
9. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is configured such that one size fits most adult ears.
10. Canceled

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11. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is comprised of at least one rib.
12. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is comprised of at least one generally arcuate rib and at least one generally vertical rib, the generally vertical rib extending between points proximate ends of the arcuate rib.
13. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is comprised of two ribs that are generally configured to define a D.
14. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, further comprising a boss having a bore formed therethrough, the boss being configured to extend at least partially into the ear canal.
15. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is formed of a resilient polymer.
16. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is formed of a resilient polymer having a Shore A durometer of between approximately 35 and approximately 45.
17. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is formed of a resilient polymer having a Shore A durometer of approximately 40.
18. (original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the earpiece is formed by injection molding.
19. (amended) The device as recited in claim 1, further comprising an acoustic conduit for communicating sound to the earpiece configured so as to cause sound to pass through the earpiece.

Claims 20-24 Canceled

25. (amended) A method for manufacturing an earpiece, the method comprising:  
forming an earpiece from a polymer material;

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wherein the earpiece is configured to be captured at least partially within the conchae of an ear; and

wherein the earpiece is configured for use in either ear without modification of the earpiece.

26. (original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the polymer material comprises a resilient polymer material.

27. (original) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the earpiece is formed by injection molding.

28. (amended) A method for using a portable communication system, the method comprising:

inserting an earpiece into the ear such that the earpiece is held in place at least partially by the conchae; and

wherein the earpiece is configured for use in either ear without modification of the earpiece.

29. (amended) A method for using an earpiece, the method comprising:

removing the earpiece from one ear; and

placing the earpiece in the other ear such that the earpiece is held in place at least partially by the conchae, the earpiece being configured for use in either ear without modification of the earpiece.

30. (amended) A method for using an earpiece, the method comprising:

inserting an earpiece into the ear without regard as to which ear the earpiece is configured to be used in and without modification of the earpiece; and

wherein the earpiece is held in place at least partially by the conchae.

31. Cancelled

32. (amended) An earpiece configured to be captured within the conchae of an ear by at least one of:

an antihelix;

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a back rim of the conchae;

a tragus; and

an antitragus;

wherein the earpiece is symmetrical and comprised of ALPHA PVC [[319]]  
3019-40/45.

33. (amended) The earpiece as recited in claim 32, wherein a portion thereof is captured between [[the]] a crus of helix [[()]]within the conchae[()]] and the antihelix.

34. Cancelled

35. (amended) An earpiece comprising:

a body that is configured for use in either ear without modification of the body of the earpiece; and

a acoustic coupler having a bore formed therein, the acoustic coupler being configured so as to facilitate attached of acoustic tubing to the earpiece.

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